

LATVIAN UNION IN FRANCE

REPORT

ON THE CONGRESS OF LATVIAN YOUTH, LATVIAN STUDENTS  
and BALTIC STUDENTS  
JULY 31st to AUGUST 7th, 1955, Germany

For personal reasons Mr. J. Ovcinikovs was unable to participate in the Congress. The Union delegated Mr. E. Zieds to replace him. Consequently, the sum of 42,100 Francs allotted to cover expenses for traveling was distributed in the following way:

Mlle. A. Rutka	19,381 fr.
Mr. E. Ziemelis	6,950 fr.
Mr. E. Zieds	<u>15,769 fr.</u>
	<u>42,100 fr.</u>

Representatives of seven European countries took part in the Congress. The Congress was held in a very friendly atmosphere and the desire to maintain and develop national activities was marked.

In the Latvian Youth Congress Miss Rutka was elected vice-President of the Administrative Council and Mr. E. Zieds took part in the Commission which elaborated the statutes. The Congress adapted its statutes which shall be definite.

Mr. Ziemelis presided over the Congress of Latvian students. Without being the Union's delegates Mlle. Tomsons and Lerchis, students of the Free Europe University in Exile, took part in the Students' Congress.

Representatives of the West German Government and of the Ministry of Education, as well as personalities from the Baltic Associations in exile, delivered speeches on historical and national themes. Various addresses were devoted to guiding the young people in their studies, telling them of the exigencies of the labor market and on the possibilities of obtaining scholarships. Animated discussions followed all these speeches wherein the young people showed their interest and their understanding of the problems of their nationality and their generation.

During the Congress Mlle. Rutka spoke to Latvian youth at home through the facilities of the Voice of America and she sang a series of Latvian folksongs over the German radio.

Paris, November 8th, 1955

J. Cops  
Administrative Secretary

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